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|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b>  |  |
|                               | 09/853,841             | RATCLIFF, RAYMOND F. |  |
|                               | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>      |  |
|                               | Joseph P. Hirl         | 2121                 |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to December 14, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

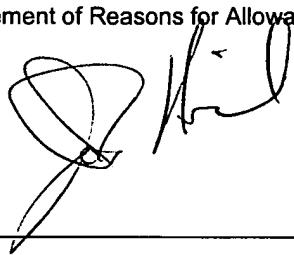
\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>121404</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                             | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |



***Reasons for Allowance***

1. Claims 1-26 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fails to teach the claims invention of a method and apparatus for providing a reward for the use of a processor in a parallel processing environment wherein tasks are sent over a network that initiates from a single originating module and such tasks each contain both an algorithm and associated data are performed as assigned by each of at least two of a plurality of data processing devices and upon completion of such tasks, each performing data processor receives a reward.

The closest prior art (Kurowski et al, U.S. Pub. 2002/0019844) teaches a method and system for network distributed computing wherein the client will typically interact with a file server, task server, and application server in the processing of a task. To focus only on a single originating module for the task simply would not allow the task to be performed ... a significant feature necessary to perform the task would be missing from Kurowski's single originating module.

An alternative prior art (Korpela et al, SETI(at)Home---Distributed Computing for SETI) teaches the use of large-scale distributed computing to perform sensitive searching of radio signal data. While this computing system has recorded millions of clients, it functions by the downloading of SETI(at)home software over the internet through a data server from a user database. Subsequent downloadings and actual processing is achieved by an internet connection through a data server to a work unit

storage database. The SETI computing network task does not initiate with a single originating module. If the client performed a SETI computing Network task using a single originating module, the application might start but then stop since there wasn't any data ... work unit to evaluate. Further, the SETI computing network does not provide a reward to each client for the work unit processed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Correspondence Information***

3. Any inquiry concerning this information or related to the subject disclosure should be directed to the Examiner, Joseph P. Hirl, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3685. The Examiner can be reached on Monday – Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached at (571) 272-3687.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, D. C. 20231;

Art Unit: 2121

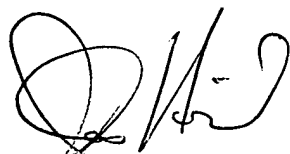
or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (for formal communications intended for entry);

or faxed to:

(571) 273-3685 (for informal or draft communications with notation of

"Proposed" or "Draft" for the desk of the Examiner).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. P. Hirl', written in a cursive style.

Joseph P. Hirl

February 16, 2005